

ABSTRACT

[0049] A single-axis optical system is introduced in the imaging channel of an array microscope in order to relay the image of the sample object onto a detector placed apart from the array. Because of the relatively large size of the single-axis system, sufficient space is available to provide simultaneous epi-illumination to all objectives in the array with a single lateral source directed toward the sample object by a beam splitter positioned along the imaging train. As a result of this configuration, conjugate aperture-stop positions are provided that can be used to place optical elements in the system to affect the properties of the illumination and/or the imaging wavefronts.